

WOULD YOU MOUNTAINEER THIS SUMMER?

By Le Roy Jeffers

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THOSE of us who live in the eastern part of the country cannot turn to mountains of great height for our week-end and holiday excursions; but there are delightful strolls which one may take over the hills at no great distance from New York or Boston. In the Catskills and Adirondacks of New York, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, or the Berkshires of Massachusetts, one may find an interesting variety of beautiful scenery and ample opportunity for good exercise. A little further afield there are the Black and the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina to allure one; or Mount Katahdin in Maine, with the most interesting cliffs that a climber will find east of the Rockies. On all these trips topographical maps of the U. S. Geological Survey should be taken when they are available for the region.

Numerous outdoor and hiking clubs arrange trips to view these regions for the man or woman who is socially inclined; or one may roam alone with sleeping bag, provisions and map, discovering the country anew for himself. Foremost among our eastern organizations which hold local walks and frequent excursions to the mountains is the Appalachian Mountain Club of Boston and New York. Organized in 1876, it has built and mapped many trails in the White Mountains, to which summer and winter parties are often conducted. This year its camp is from August 6 to September 3 in the Franconia Mountains, New Hampshire. Its clubhouse and camp on Three Mile Island in Lake Winnepesaukee is open to members from July 1 to September 7; and its recently established Cold River camp at North Chatham, N. H., is open from June 27 to September 15.

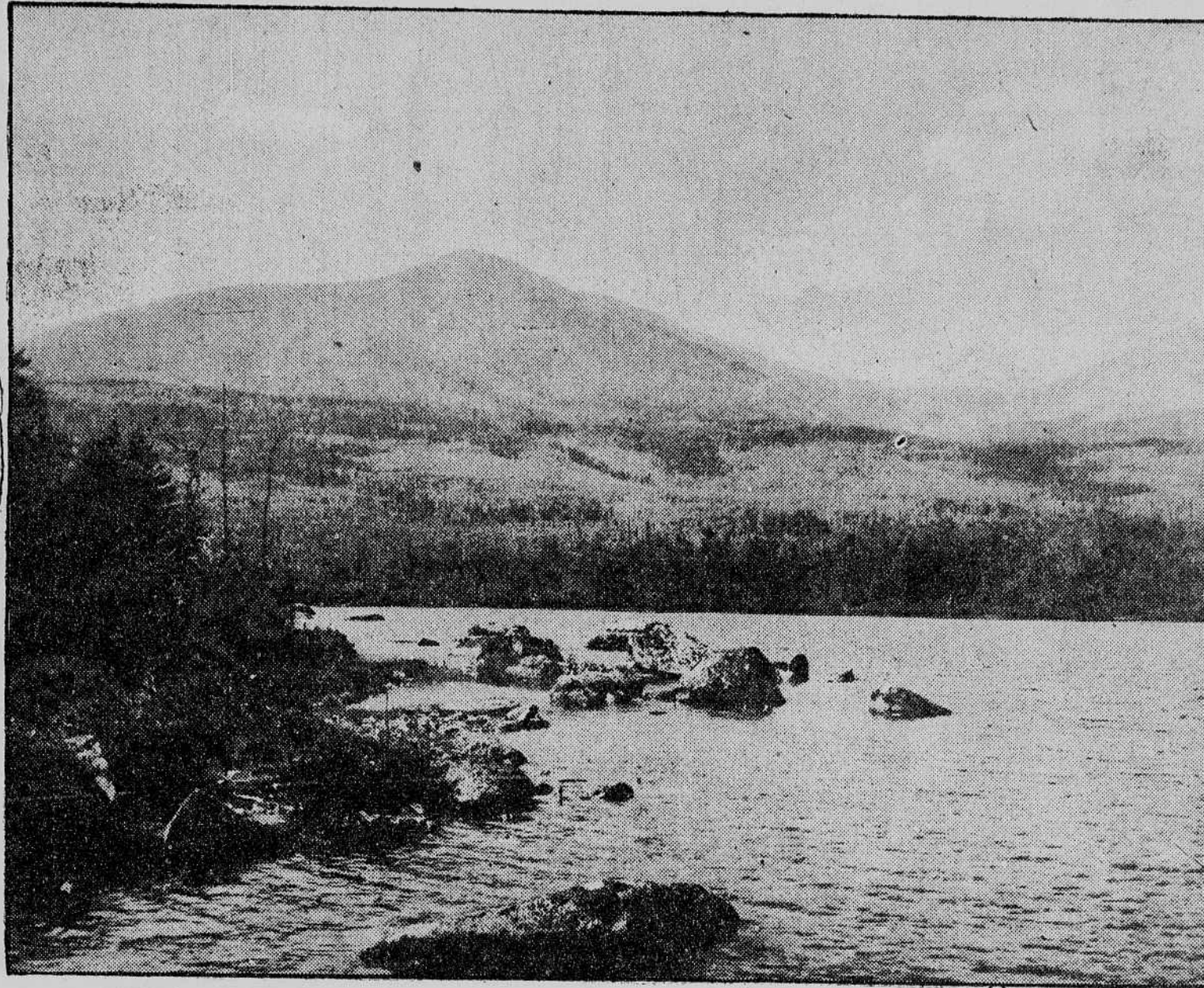
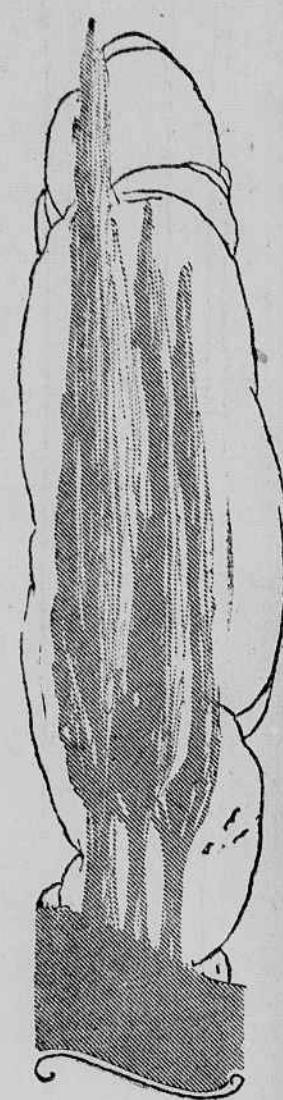
Many who have followed the trails over the White Mountains have found food and shelter in the stone huts that are constructed by the club near the summit of leading peaks. The Madison Spring, Carter Notch, and Lakes of the Clouds huts are available to the traveler from July 1 to September 15. In all, about two hundred and fifty miles of trail are maintained, and the club owns seventeen reservations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. An indispensable pocket Guide to the Trails in the White Mountains and adjacent regions is published by the club at 1050 Tremont Building, Boston. In the vicinity of Boston walks are held on Saturdays and holidays, and on Tuesday evenings in summer. Chapters of the club are maintained in New York City and Worcester, Mass., where Saturday and holiday walks are also scheduled. Membership in the club is by invitation, and a prospective member must usually show his or her fitness on the trail as a guest of some member of the club. The chairman of the New York Chapter is J. D. Merriman, 2 Rector Street, and its secretary is Ellen R. Peck, 34 South Tenth Street, Newark, N. J.

Climb of Mount Washington, White Mountains

In the summer one may take an evening train from New York, arriving the next morning at Crawford House near the head of the Crawford Notch. With rucksack containing provisions and sweater, he can start on the trail leading over Mounts Clinton, Pleasant, Franklin and Monroe, to the Appalachian hut at the Lakes of the Clouds. After leaving the spruce woods there are fine views into the valleys, and beyond the hut it is a steep climb over the slabs to the summit of Mount Washington, 6,290 feet. If one has not lingered on the way, there will be time to follow the Gulfside trail, traversing the northern peaks, Mounts Clay, Jefferson and Adams, to the Madison huts, where there is welcome, food and shelter for the night. In the morning one may descend to the railway at Appalachia. There are many other trails from the summit of the range that lead downward through attractive scenery. The climb of Mount Washington should not be attempted in stormy weather, as conditions often develop which are impossible to face, and lives have sometimes been lost.

The Green Mountain Club of Vermont, with a flourishing section in New York City, offers a trail from the Massachusetts border to Johnson, Vt., four-fifths of the way across the state toward Canada. Only the southern portion of Vermont has been mapped by the Geological Survey, and there are several hundred peaks ranging from 2,000 to over 4,000 feet in height, many of which are unnamed and little known. They are forest covered in the south, but have bare, rocky summits in the north. From Bennington to Camel's Hump, or Couching Lion, which is 4,088 feet high, the Long Trail affords an attractive camping hike, requiring sleeping bag, food, ax, compass and matches. North of Camel's Hump one will find lodgings, and it is only necessary to carry lunch. In this section are the highest peaks, culminating in Mount Mansfield, 4,407 feet, from which there is an extensive view across Lake Champlain to the Adirondacks in the west, while the White Mountains are seen to the east. The Guide Book of the Long Trail, which gives full information for the trip, may be secured from

If So, Here Are Directions, Routes and Practical Helps for Climbs Throughout the East; Maine, the White and Green Mountains, the Berkshires, the Adirondacks, the Catskills. Take Your Choice, Hard Climbs or Easy Ones, From Lonely Katahdin to the More Sociable Foothills



Mount Katahdin, Maine, from Sandy Stream Pond. Katahdin's eastern cliffs afford the best climbing in this part of the country. The mountain rises in a wilderness, thirty miles from the nearest settlement

E. S. Marsh, of Brandon, Vt. The club has built about two hundred and eleven miles of trail, along which it has erected numerous shelters for the convenience of hikers. It has five local sections throughout the state and another in New York.

From New York to Mount Mansfield in Vermont

The New York section of the Green Mountain Club conducts local walks and has constructed trails on the attractive Wyandottic Plateau in New Jersey. Prof. W. S. Monroe, of 33 Portland Place, Montclair, N. J., is the president, and A. C. Tate, of Stamford, Conn., is the secretary. A cordial welcome is given to men and women who are interested in the work of the club and who would contribute to its wellbeing.

To obtain a glimpse of the Green Mountains one can leave New York on an evening and arrive at Waterbury, Vt., early the next morning. Here on week days an electric line runs to Stowe, where one can hire an auto to Smugglers Notch and climb Mount Mansfield by the trail from Barnes Camp. If one arrives on a Sunday, or if he would enjoy a fine all day tramp on a week day, an auto may be secured at Waterbury for Nebraska Notch to the south of Mount Mansfield. It is a winding road that finds its way over picturesque old bridges and around fern covered hills on which the yellow birches and happy pines are awakening to the first rays of the sun. Starting as the morning mists are lifting, there are miles of gradually ascending trail through thickets of ferns and

clusters of Clintonias, with their china-blue berries. At last the trail rounds the forehead of the mountain and climbs steeply upward to the nose, which is the highest point, 4,407 feet. In storms it is scarcely possible to stand erect, and there are thrilling glimpses into the distant valleys, as the wind driven clouds open and close in an instant. At the Summit House one may secure delicious maple sugar, and then leave for Smugglers Notch by the trail. A more interesting route for a mountaineer is to continue north over the chin and down to the Lake in the Clouds. Just before reaching the lake a precipitous brook bed offers the shortest route into Smugglers Notch, but there is no trail and one must cling to trees and vines while he descends the slippery, moss covered rocks. The walls of the Notch tower over 2,000 feet above the road, and giant blocks of granite from the cliffs have formed a cave which one may enter. It is ten miles by passing auto to Stowe.

Isolated Mount Katahdin, Toughest Climb of All

Mount Katahdin, 5,273 feet high, in the Maine wilderness, affords the best climbing on its eastern cliffs in this part of the country. The

usual approach is by the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad to Greenville Junction, on Moosehead Lake, where a steamer leaves for Lily Bay. Here an automobile stage runs to Ripogenus Dam, where one may spend the night. It is then about twelve miles through the woods by trail to York's Camp, on Daisy Pond, where one is sheltered for another night. The next day the mountain may be climbed from the west and return made to camp. If one would view the more interesting eastern face of the mountain, he must leave the Bangor & Aroostook at Stacyville and shoulder his sleeping bag and grub. It is more than thirty miles to the summit of Katahdin by ancient tote road and poor trail. At first the road leads through the forest to a farmhouse called Metagama, on the East Branch of the Penobscot, where one may cross in a canoe. At some points the trail is not marked, and after leaving the Wassataquoik the new route offers only occasional blazes. At last the overgrown tote road is rejoined and Katahdin Pond is reached, on whose shore Cushman Camp is located. This is often closed, and one may continue to Sandy Stream Pond, twenty-four miles, for the day's tramp from Stacyville.

It is then four miles into the South Basin, where Chimney Pond is located, and two and a half miles further to the summit by way of a boulder slide at the head of the basin. The more interesting route is to climb the chimney above the pond, or to follow the trail up Pamola Peak and traverse the knife edge above the pond to the top of Katahdin. From its two highest summits there is a magnificent view over a vast forested region, dotted with many lakes. It is about two miles across the tableland to Hunt's Trail, which descends a western spur of the peak amid gigantic boulders, and then through the forest to a spur of the Millinocket tote road. York's Camp is finally reached by road and trail, seven miles from the summit. Ripogenus Dam and the auto stage are about twelve miles distant by a very circuitous route. One must first cross the Sourdunhunk stream on a very dilapidated dam, and then cross the West Branch of the Penobscot by another dam. When the water is high this crossing must be made on a log boom, and it's not an easy matter, for the boom is washed out at the central watergate and at the west bank. At both of these points a rope provides the only way of getting through the swift current. The traverse of Mount Katahdin offers one of the most interesting excursions in the East, but it should not be undertaken by the novice without a guide.

Mount Everett and Greylock In Massachusetts

The southern Berkshires of Massachusetts are within easy distance of New York and are especially worth visiting. Leaving New York in the late afternoon on the Harlem division

of the New York Central, Copake Ironworks is reached at a convenient hour, and one may stop at the inn near the station. To the southeast a road between Washburn and Bashbish mountains leads to Alander Mountain, 2,243 feet high. A romantic, fern-embowered trail winds up its tree-covered slopes. Following the deep gorge of Bashbish Brook to the east from the ironworks, one may continue to the trail which ascends Mount Everett from the west. It is an attractive stroll to the summit, 2,624 feet, which is the second highest in Massachusetts. Descending a little way by the trail, one may turn to the east and gradually work down a steep ravine through which the water foams and tumbles. It is then a few miles across country to the railway at Sheffield or to an electric line, by which one may go north to Pittsfield for the night. In the morning the electric car may be taken toward North Adams, stopping at the entrance to the trail up Mount Greylock, 3,505 feet, the highest mountain in Massachusetts. From the summit observatory there is an extensive view of wooded mountains. The descent may be varied by dropping down the Hopper on the north-western side of Greylock. The route over the cliffs is rather steep for one who is not a mountaineer, but its scenery is rewarding. Hopper Brook and Green River are then followed to the railway at Williamstown.

To the Top of Mount Marcy In the Adirondacks

It is an overnight trip from New York to Lake Placid in the Adirondacks, where one may climb Mount Marcy, 5,344 feet, the highest elevation in the state. An auto should be taken to Heart, or Clear Lake, where the trail begins. At the dam one turns to the left, and further on the John's Brook trail from Keene Valley is entered, which finally reaches the summit of Marcy. In addition to most of the leading peaks of the Adirondacks, Mount Mansfield in Vermont is visible. A trail continues down the southern side of Marcy, reaching the head of upper Ausable Lake, but it does not continue down the lakes. It is possible, however, to follow the shore of Upper Ausable, cross the stream between it and Lower Ausable, and then traverse the eastern bank of the latter lake, finally arriving at St. Huberts. A steep slope strewn with fallen logs makes this route undesirable along Lower Ausable. It is far more interesting to descend the John's Brook trail to the route over Mount Haystack and the Gothics, which leads out to St. Huberts, where an auto should be secured for Keene Valley and return to Lake Placid.

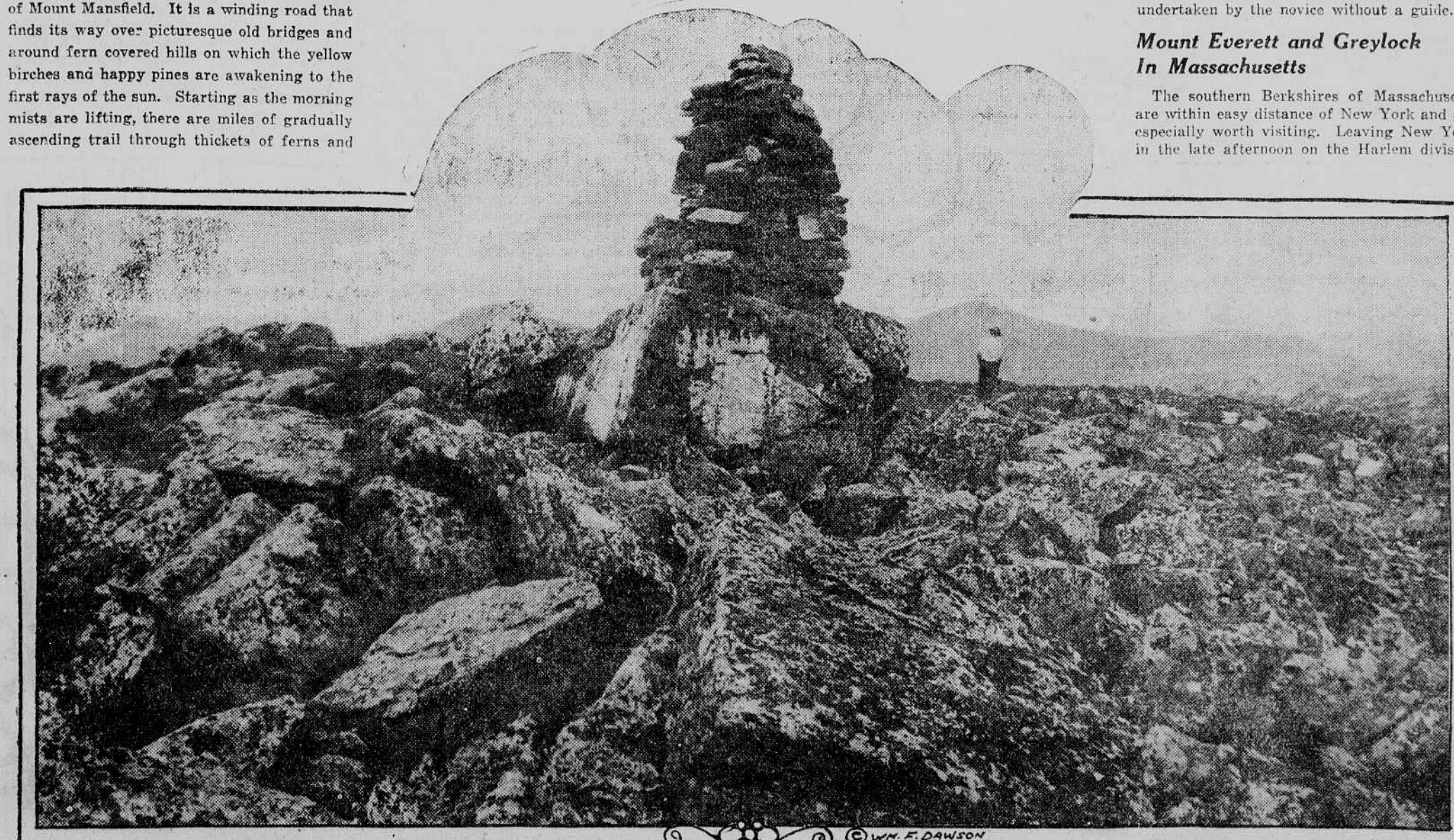
The Catskills Offer Slide Mountain

One of the oldest clubs in the country, organized in 1877, is the Fresh Air Club of New York. It consists of a small group of men who join in Sunday walks of fifteen to eighteen miles over the New Jersey hills and in the Highlands of the Hudson. Favorite climbs are up the rocky face of Storm King and over Crows Nest on the west bank of the Hudson; or up Anthony's Nose, or Breakneck on the eastern bank. One must be a good cross-country walker and able to keep the pace, as well as being socially agreeable, if he wishes to become a member of this club, whose secretary is Mortimer Bishop, 88 Nassau Street. In the spring the club visits the Catskills and follows the trail which they have constructed to Slide, 4,205 feet, which is the highest peak in these mountains. Taking an afternoon train from the city, one may sleep at Kingston, leaving early for Phoenicia, where an auto may be secured to Lord's in Woodland Valley. It is a somewhat hidden trail over Wittenberg and Cornell to the summit of Slide, but the view is very beautiful, especially when the autumn foliage is at its best.

Mount Mitchell Reaches Altitude of 6,711 Feet

By leaving New York about noon one can reach Asheville, N. C., the next morning, but if you are a climber in search of Mount Mitchell, which is 6,711 feet, and the highest elevation east of the Mississippi, you will drop off the train with your rucksack at Graphiteville before Asheville is reached. If it is in June the mountains will be richly covered with rose-purple rhododendrons, followed by flaming scarlet and orange azaleas, with great areas of white and pink mountain laurel. At first one must climb a steep spur of the Blue Ridge and then, turning to the left, traverse the peaks of the Black Mountains until Mount Mitchell is reached. Some years ago a magnificent forest covered these slopes, but it was largely destroyed and burned over by destructive lumbering. The view from the summit of Mitchell is not of rocky peaks, but is a dreamy blue sea of flowing forest curves. In cross-country work one encounters innumerable ridges, separated by deep and narrow ravines, where he may easily become entangled in almost impenetrable rhododendron and laurel thickets that are ten to twenty feet high. The return from Mount Mitchell may be by way of Montreat and Black Mountain, where the railway is rejoined. A logging railway, which runs from Black Mountain to Mount Mitchell, now takes passengers nearly to the summit of the mountain.

Among other clubs which have local walks around New York is the Tramp and Trail Club, of which Frank Place, of 17 West Forty-third Street, is president. Sunday walks of ten or twelve miles are attended by men and women. The Inkova Club, of 12 West Forties Street, of which Ellen E. Hamer is director, has Saturday and Sunday walks for women, with travel parties and canoe and hiking trips in the summer.



Cairn marking the summit of Mount Katahdin, 5,273 feet above sea level. There is a magnificent view over a vast forested region